



Army News

New centers helping Families of wounded warriors

Story by
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Army News Service

A key component of caring for wounded warriors is taking care of their Families. That’s why Soldier Family Assistance Centers now thrive at 34 Army installations across the globe, officials said.

SFACs are a one-stop shop where wounded warriors and their Families can find assistance and information to get them through a difficult time.

Maj. Gen. John Macdonald, commanding general of the U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command and Delores F. Johnson, director, Family Programs, headquarters, U.S. Army FMWRC, joined bloggers and on-line journalists for a special Warrior Care month blogger’s roundtable to discuss SFACs and other programs available to wounded warriors.

“What we realized is, we often have parents and Families and girlfriends and spouses who come onto our installations where our major treatment centers are,” Macdonald said. “And they’ve never been on an installation. They don’t know which way is up.”

That awareness prompted the Army to create a specialized care system just for Families of wounded warriors. It combines all of the components - from Veterans Affairs to specialized medical care information - and puts them in one accessible place for the Families of Soldiers.

“We find if we reduce that stress of how am I going to get paid, how is my Family going to get



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Soldiers from the 503rd Infantry in Vicenza, Italy, shoot the rapids as part of the Warrior Adventure Quest event.

housed, and where are my kids going to go to school while they’re here, at Fort Sam Houston, because I’m here in long-term care - when all that stress is reduced, our Soldiers heal much more quickly,” Macdonald said.

Many Families of wounded warriors end up living far from home during their Soldiers’ treatment. That’s why SFACs are designed to offer not just resources and information, but a home base for Families who may be miles away from their usual support system.

“The other piece is just creating a safe haven for Families, on the garrison, where they could meet, mingle and get to know each other, as their warrior is healing through the process,” Johnson said.

In addition to offering care on post, support networks in communities, called Community-Based Warrior Transition Units, offer resources and assistance to Families not located on a military installation. Families can come to the CBWTU for assistance and then continue to

get help in the garrison if they need more extensive support, Johnson said.

A virtual SFAC is offered on the Military One Source Web site for Families looking to find out what kind of support and activities are available in their community.

In addition to the support offered by SFACs, Macdonald spent several moments discussing a recently launched battle-mind training taking place called Warrior Adventure Quest. The program helps Soldiers who have become accustomed to the adrenaline rush that comes from serving in combat to safely deal with the transition to the lower-tempo of civilian life. Soldiers in the program participate in activities such as whitewater rafting, sky diving, rock climbing and snowmobiling.

For more information on SFACs, Warrior Adventure Quest, or other programs offered by FMWRC for Soldiers and Families, visit <http://www.myarmylifetoo.com>.

(Editor’s note: Lindy Kyzer writes for OCPA.)



WARRIOR CARE MONTH - OPEN LETTER TO OUR ARMY COMMUNITIES

In the month of November, Americans traditionally reflect on the service of our nation’s veterans past and present - and give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy because of their courage and sacrifice. Fittingly, the Department of Defense has designated November as “Warrior Care Month,” taking stock of the advances we have made in treating our servicemen and women and, equally importantly, reaffirming to our troops our country’s commitment to care for our wounded, ill and injured Soldiers and their Families.

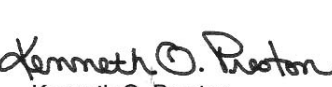
Over the past seven years, the United States Army has transformed the way we care for our men and women in uniform. From Soldiers highly trained in self-aid, buddy-aid and combat life-saving techniques, to our combat medics on the battlefield, to our forward-based surgical teams and combat support hospitals, to our medical evacuation personnel and on to our superb regional medical centers overseas and in the United States, the Army’s medical care system provides world-class care for our Warriors. Today, nearly 90 percent of Soldiers injured in battle survive, compared to the 70 percent who survived during World War II. There is no better evidence of our Army’s commitment to taking care of our own. It’s clear, our Army care effort doesn’t start when a Soldier arrives at one of our outstanding hospitals--it begins well before they get to the hospital.


The Army supports its Wounded Warriors and their Families through the entire recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration process to ensure all their needs are fully met. Our 36 installation-based and nine community-based Warrior Transition Units provide individualized care for Soldiers and their Families. These efforts ensure Soldiers can heal and successfully transition-back into the Army or into civilian life-according to the best interests of the individual and their Family. For our most seriously injured Warriors and their Families, the Army Wounded Warrior Program offers dedicated and ongoing support, providing them a place to turn for help as their needs change over time. In addition, we are working daily to improve coordination between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs so our Soldiers and Families receive the full range of benefits they so clearly deserve.


This progress has come with the help of volunteers across America. So many have opened up their hearts and offered their time and volunteer efforts on behalf of our wounded, ill and injured Soldiers and their Families. They deserve our gratitude for their extraordinary work.

Warrior Care Month is a time for us to tell this story, the full story of Army care, throughout our Army Family. It is a story that touches every Soldier, every Family, and every community. Aside from the war and the defense of our nation, providing the highest quality care and support to our Soldiers and their Families remains the Army’s number one priority. No Soldier or Family should ever feel alone in their recovery.

We know there is more to be done. Meeting our obligation to Wounded Warriors and their Families will take the sustained efforts of not only the Army, but the nation as a whole. Working together, the Army and our partners will ensure our Warrior Care programs are worthy of the sacrifices made by our Soldiers and Families in service to our great nation.


Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army


George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff


Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army

PII, FOUO

From front page

actions and organizational charts.”

Leonard Blake, installation information manager, DOIM, said that any PII needs to be protected.

“The bad guys really do exist, and they’re dangerous because a lot of us don’t know who they are,” Blake said. “Supervisors can have a lot of PII in their possession and not even realize it. Even small pieces of personal information such as an individual’s birthday or home of record needs to be protected. These small pieces of personal information when put together can lead to identity theft and worse. The bottom line is people need to realize that they need to be protective of personal information.”

Violations include the prominent display of alert rosters or personnel contact listings; personnel files kept on desks and not in secure file cabinets; birthday listings and any unsecured documents containing social security numbers.

“This directive to increase security is coming from the executive level and includes all of the Department of Defense,” Blake said. “Specifically at APG, the community needs to know

that not enough are taking it seriously.”

He added that many companies contrive to gain personal information from individuals for verification purposes.

“They will ask for your birthday, favorite pet, the high school you graduated from and other questions,” he said. “It’s up to you to trust those sites. Anyone feeling like they are being targeted for identity theft should contact the Staff Duty Officer who will connect you to the APG police [Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security]. They will know exactly what to do.”

PII that must be protected includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Full name
- Social Security Number
- Telephone number
- Street address
- E-mail address
- Vehicle/car registration number
- Driver’s license number
- Face, fingerprints or handwriting
- First school
- Mother’s maiden name
- Pet’s name
- Town of birth
- Year of birth
- University attended
- First job
- Father’s job
- Spouse’s name

- Names of children

FOUO

“If it has to be out, mark it FOUO,” Blake said. “We want people thinking in the security mindset,” he added. “With base realignment and closure approaching, the need is even more urgent.”

According to Army Regulation 25-55, FOUO is a designation that is applied to unclassified information which is exempt from mandatory release to the public under the Freedom of Information Act.

Army Regulation 380-5 directs that such documents will be marked “For Official Use Only” in letters larger than the text, at the bottom of the front cover, the title page, the first page and the outside of the

back cover.

Pages of the document which contain FOUO information will be marked “For Official Use Only” at the bottom.

Material other than paper documents, for example, slides, computer media, films, etc., will bear marking which alert the holder or viewer that the material contains FOUO information.

Information which can be withheld from release if requested by a member of the public:

- Information which is currently and properly classified
- Information which pertains solely to the internal rules and practices of the agency
- Information specifically exempted by a statute establishing particular criteria for withholding. The language of the statute must clearly state that the information will not be disclosed
- Information such as trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a company on a privileged or confidential basis, which if released, would result in competitive harm to the company, impair the government’s ability to obtain like information in the future, or protect the government’s interest in compliance with program effectiveness
- Intra-agency memoranda which are deliberative in nature (This exemption is appropriate for internal documents which are part of the decision making process and contain subjective evaluations, opinions and recommendations.)
- Information, the release of which could reasonably be expected to constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of individuals
- Records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes that:
 - * could reasonably be expected to interfere with law enforcement proceedings
 - * would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication
 - * could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy of others
 - * disclose the identity of a confidential source
 - * disclose investigative techniques and procedures
 - * could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual
- Certain records of agencies responsible for supervision of financial institutions
- Geological and geophysical information concerning wells

APG News

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